

**ABSTRACT**

An XY platen positioning system includes a fixed base rigidly coupled to a essentially planar surface. An XY intermediate plate is slidably coupled to the fixed base, such that the XY intermediate plate is slidable in the X axis along the fixed base. An XY stage is slidably coupled to the XY intermediate plate, such that the XY stage is slidable in the Y axis along the XY intermediate plate. A platen is flexibly coupled to the XY stage, such that the platen, with respect to the XY stage, is essentially constrained in the X and Y axes and moveable in the Z axis.